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Amherst Paper Questions Mott's Status

CPYRGHT

AMHERST, Mass. — The following item about the suicide of Newcomb Mott in the Soviet Union appeared in the Jan. 27 issue of the Record which is published here. The title was "What Was Mott's Status?"

"Americans need to ask questions of their own government about Newcomb Mott, whose death by a throat slash on a Soviet train has shocked much of the nation's press. When first arrested, it was reported that Mott was employed by the Praeger publishing company of the U.S. Subsequent accounts have simply said he was employed by "a publishing firm." The Record editor has a hunch that Praeger may be used by the U.S. CIA as a front in its activities.

"The presence of Mott on a remote frontier of Norway and Russia gives rise to wonder what he was doing there. The Russians apparently thought there was more to this than just a tourist trip, for they "threw the book" at Mott, at a time when other tourists have been made welcome.

"Finally, one recalls the U-2 pilot Powers who was downed in 1960. His CIA equipment broadly hinted that a proper agent should take his own life if he felt he might reveal his mission. Powers, of course, ignored the hint. It is possible that Mott was an agent who did not."